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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 2. Good offices and peace-making; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information

1. At its 43rd and 44th meetings, on 7 June, the Committee considered section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations emphasized their support for the work of the Organization in this area.

3. One delegation, emphasizing the importance of peace-keeping activities referred specifically to the role of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. Another delegation did not accept selective mention of specific peace-keeping operations.

4. Some delegations expressed concern at the reduction in resources available to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance Programmes to Cambodians.

5. Given the need to clarify the concept of peace-making and the Organization's role in that connection, some delegations suggested that the title of section 2 should be changed and the reference to peace-making deleted. Other delegations had no difficulty with the title and saw no reason for a change.

6. Some delegations suggested that if the title and text of the section relating to peace-making were not changed, the Committee should only take note of section 2 and recommend its approval only after, and in the light of, comments and recommendations to be made by appropriate intergovernmental organs on the question of peace-making. In this context, the Special Political Committee and the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly were suggested as suitable forums for discussion. Other delegations had no problem with the concept of peace-making and, in any case, believed that assignment of responsibility for this matter should rest with the General Committee of the Assembly.

7. Specific textual changes proposed by one delegation included:

(a) In the first sentence of paragraph 2.3, delete the words "and other special missions";

(b) In the penultimate sentence of paragraph 2.7, delete the words "and a range of related matters";

(c) In paragraph 2.7, delete the final sentence;

(d) In the first sentence of paragraph 2.8, delete the words "and related missions".

8. A number of delegations stressed that the distribution of the proposed growth among the various parts of this section was not satisfactory.

9. One delegation queried the suitability of the classification of activities under subprogramme 1 by major categories of activities.

10. The proposal to convert temporary posts in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia to establish status was questioned. The Committee was informed that the Special Representat' e covered a number of issues affecting the region and that his work would not be completed when a settlement of the situation in Cambodia was reached.

11. One delegation suggested that provision for the Office of the Coordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon should be made

under section 4, given the related liaison functions of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services.

12. One delegation welcomed the anticipated voluntary contribution of a rented aircraft for the use of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and urged that efforts should be made to secure further voluntary contributions, including a similar arrangement for the rented aircraft for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.

13. One delegation queried a recurrent provision being made for replacement of vehicles for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, when similar provisions in other sections of the budget were made on a non-recurrent basis. It felt that this was another example of the lack of transparency and consistency in the application of the concept of non-recurrent resources.

14. A number of delegations queried the justification for the new posts and other additional resources proposed for the Office for Research and the Collection of Information. One delegation emphasized the importance of the Office's work and supported the proposed increase in its resources.

15. With regard to the mandate of the Office, one delegation queried the reference in paragraph 2.71. A number of delegations expressed concern that the Office's work relating to flows of refugees might duplicate the efforts of other organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It was suggested that the mandates and division of responsibility in this area should be reviewed.

16. Some delegations felt that the proposed recurrent provision for the replacement of 71 vehicles (para. 2.51) made it difficult to justify the non-recurrent resources requested in other sections of the budget for the same purpose.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. The Committee emphasized the crucial importance of the Organization's work in the area of peace-keeping and the maintenance of international peace and security.

18. The Committee noted that, in accordance with resolution 45/253, the concept of peace-keeping would be brought to the attention of the competent organs and intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations.

19. On this understanding, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 2 of the proposed programme for the biennium 1992-1993.